

THE LEADING EDGE
Leaders Worth Following
November 2005

Earl Creps' Monthly Leadership Newsletter
ecreps@agts.edu

Director of the AGTS D.Min. Program in Pentecostal Leadership
<http://www.agts.edu/dmin/index.html>

Leading Edge blog edition
<http://www.xanga.com/LeadingEdge>

Encounter: A Journal for Pentecostal Ministry
<http://www.encounterjournal.com/current.html>

In This Issue:

- *Impact Player:* Denny Miller (Cohort 10)
- *New! 4 D.Min. Concentrations*
- *FasTrak:* From MA to M.Div. Equivalency in Half the Time
- *Internet Resources:* Church Friendliness Study, Online Audios for Leaders
- *Statistics:* Population and AIDS
- *Read This Book:* Revolution
- *Quotable:* The Telephone
- *LeaderLife:* Developing Very Young Leaders

Impact Player: Denny Miller (Cohort 10)

Denny and Sandy Miller have served as AGWM missionaries to Africa in a variety of capacities. Currently, Denny (Cohort 10) is leading the Acts in Africa Initiative, the goal of which is "to turn Africa, which has for centuries been a missions field, into a powerful missions force." Through conferences, training, mobilization and resourcing, AIA hopes to stir the hunger for a powerful move of the Spirit in the African church. Way to go, Denny and Sandy!

New! 4 D.Min. Concentrations

Beginning with the February 2006 cohort, the AGTS Doctor of Ministry program will feature concentrations in Missional Leadership, Biblical Preaching, and Military Chaplaincy. Following three Core courses, participants will be able to choose the concentration that is optimal for their ministry setting. For more information contact the D.Min. office (lodea@agts.edu).

FasTrak: From MA to D.Min. Eligibility in Half the Time!

Thinking about a D.Min. but not sure how to get there? Our new pre-doctoral program can take a qualified MA holder in full-time ministry to academic eligibility for the D.Min. (M.Div. Equivalency) in half the time using a specially designed course format available in many locations around the country. Check it out on the web at: <http://www.agts.edu/fastrak/index.html>.

Internet Resources: Church Friendliness, Online Leadership Audios

- http://www.findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_qa3835/is_200503/ai_n12933565
Everyone likes a friendly church, but this study reports on just how important an intangible such as "church friendliness" really is in attracting and assimilating people. The article is written in a youth ministry context, but the research is Gallup quality and applicable to the church at large.

- <http://www.itconversations.com/index.html>
Looking for a source of excellent leadership training material featuring audio files? Check out ITConversations, a site packed with audio resources of interest to organizational leaders of all kinds. Thanks to Glen Davis, Chi Alpha missionary to Stanford University, for this reference. Visit with Glen at: <http://xastanford.org/> where you will also find a downloadable mp3 of a talk I gave recently to his group on campus.

Statistics: Population and AIDS

"World population, now 6.3 billion, will grow to an estimated 8.9 billion by 2050. Nearly all of the 2.6 billion increase will be in developing countries. This new projection for 2050 is lower by 400 million than the one made in 2000, due to an increase in AIDS-related deaths (278 million by 2050)."

--UNFPA, *State of World Population*, 2003

Read This Book: Revolution

George Barna's latest represents his own "conversion" to a new point of view. He is predicting a rapid deflation of congregational life and a huge increase in acongregational ministry, i.e., parachurch, simple church, house church, etc. Barna sees this trend as driven by the failure of congregationally-based ministry to carry out the Great Commission, creating a generation of "revolutionaries" (of which he claims to be one) who will invent new forms of Christian life and service. And he's talking about this happening in the next 20 years. Check it out at:

<http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/1414307586/002-0645772-6829622?v=glance&n=283155&n=507846&s=books&v=glance>

Quotable: The Telephone

"This 'telephone' has too many shortcomings to be seriously considered as a means of communication. The device is inherently of no value to us."

--Western Union internal memo, in 1876

LeaderLife: Developing Very Young Leaders

I have most often used the phrase "young leaders" to mean men and women in the 18-35 demographic. Recently, however, my perspective has changed as a result of several conversations on the road.

#1. The Airport: the first conversation took place in an airport, talking with an Army officer who was lamenting how difficult it had become to recruit soldiers despite a fairly impressive set of incentives that could send you to college, buy you a sports car, etc. He felt that something more than the international situation was to blame, something that had to do with the willingness of young people to live a life of sacrifice.

#2. The Airplane: The next conversation took place on an airplane sitting beside the president of a nursing school. She was lamenting a similar condition. Young people have so many opportunities and so much competition for their talents, she said, that convincing them to serve the public in a highly stressful profession like nursing was becoming a tough sell, unless the candidates were identified young. I asked how young? Her answer: the fifth grade! Later than that, they have too many options for nursing to be competitive.

#3. The Church: In a church in Texas I asked a technical producer how he recruits all the people it takes to operate their media and organize their services. He smiled and told me they bring

young people in at the age of twelve. Not only do they simply have better computer skills than older people, they also have time to invest in the ministry for the next several years. Waiting even until Junior High is often too late because students then are too busy with other activities to become involved.

My conclusion from these conversations: the Church must develop ways to identify and cultivate leaders much younger than the current norm. Waiting for a call to ministry at youth camp simply may be too late in today's context. The 50ish median age of our clergy and the challenge of involving younger men and women across all the denominations is a warning signal. While no one can control the call of God, we can help young people open their hearts to considering it. Our own example is the key.

My major recommendation: Never do anything alone—take a young person with you.

Be a leader worth following,

Earl

ecreps@agts.edu

D.Min. program mission: transforming leaders to transform their organizations

D.Min. program vision: leaders worth following

D.Min. program values:

- **the extra mile**—others before ourselves
 - **the personal touch**—everyone counts
 - **the cutting edge**—we get there first
 - **the real deal**—authenticity in everything
 - **the better way**—listen to improve
 - **the positive word**—choose to encourage
 - **the unique person**—enjoy diversity
 - **the X factor**—synergy through trust and truth
-

D.Min. Team:

<http://www.agts.edu/dmin/index.html>

Earl Creps—Program Director

ecreps@agts.edu

Tracy Harrington—Office Assistant

tharrington@agts.edu

Stephen Lim—Project Coordinator

slim@agts.edu

Lori O'Dea—Program Coordinator

lodea@agts.edu

Cheryl Taylor—Program Advisor

ctaylor@agts.edu

Leading Edge Blog Edition:

<http://www.xanga.com/LeadingEdge>

Leading Edge Archive:

Past issues are archived at: http://agts.edu/dmin/leading_edge/index.html

Talk to us:

Phone: 1-800-467-AGTS

Fax: (417) 268-1047

Mail: aGts, 1435 N. Glenstone Ave., Springfield, MO 65802 USA

Web: <http://www.agts.edu/dmin/index.html>

